

FARM LABOR**NUMBER OF LAKE REGION WORKERS UP 1,000 FROM APRIL 2003**

Lake Region: There were 57,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms during the survey week of April 11-17, 2004, up by 1,000 from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions in Minnesota during the survey week and the week that preceded it were dry with above-average temperatures, resulting in land preparation and planting of major crops being ahead of last year and the 5-year average in all Minnesota major crop production reporting districts. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.10 per hour during the April 2004 survey week, up by 20 cents from \$9.90 in April 2003. Field workers received an average of \$9.20 per hour, an 11cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.95 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.60 per hour, was up by 34 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 35.5 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 37.0 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 11-17, 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 2004**

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	April 6-12 2003	April 11-17 2004	April 6-12 2003	April 11-17 2004
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	56	57	938	1,077
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	37.0	35.5	40.1	40.7
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	9.31	9.20	8.40	8.46
Livestock	9.20	9.95	8.75	8.95
Field & Livestock	9.26	9.60	8.49	8.58
All Workers	9.90	10.10	9.16	9.22

1/Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/Excludes Alaska.